

THE ATTACK ON COLLIS.

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ONE CHARGE MADE BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF ACCOUNTS.

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COLONEL GARDINER GIVES OUT A REPORT AC-

AN IMPROPER CONTRACT AND "FIX-  
ING" THE REQUISITIONS  
THEREFOR - GENERAL

**COLLIER'S REPLY.**  
District-Attorney Gardiner had a conference with the Mayor yesterday relative to special reports of the Commissioners of Accounts on the Department of Public Works under Mayor Strong's administration.

At 5 o'clock last evening Colonel Gardiner said that he had made an examination of the papers submitted by the Commissioners of Accounts, and had found the appended document, which he determined to make public. The District-Attorney stated that the facts set forth in this document disclosed criminal action. The District-Attorney quoted from the same the sections to bear out his statement, and said that the matter would be placed in the hands of the Grand Jury at once.

"This is a false document that I have been able to examine," said Colonel Gardiner. "Others will follow as fast as I can examine them. I shall act also in each case as soon as the papers can be prepared."

The paper charges that Commissioner Collis

personally ordered, without requisition or orders, the work of repaving and laying the asphalt at the intersection of Boulevard, Tenth-ave. and Seventy-first-st., without public letting or inviting bids, for which he had afterward, it is alleged, signed "fixed" requisitions.

GENERAL COLLIS'S REPLY.

When seen by a Tribune reporter last night at the Union League Club, General Collis said that he had read the statement of the Commissioners of Accounts. "I have known," he added, smiling, "mountains to labor and bring forth mice like this before now. I suppose there is a whole litter of mice to follow before Colonel Roosevelt is elected Governor. As for the Seventy-first-st. and Tenth-ave. transaction, I did the work there to gratify two hundred and fifty thousand people who ride bicycles, and investigation will prove how scrupulously careful I have always been to avoid even a technical violation of the

"If my memory serves me, I got over \$2,000 worth of work done for \$960, and I have expected that the Barber Asphalt Company would sue me for the balance. I have only to add that if I am to continue to be Commissioner of Public Works until after the campaign is over I think I ought to be allowed a salary of \$8,000 a year."

**THE COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.**

Following is the document given out by Colonel Gardiner:

New-York, September 30, 1898.

Hon. Robert A. Van Wyck, Mayor, New-York City.

Dear Sir: In June, 1896, Commissioner Charles H. T. Collis personally ordered, without regulation or order, the work of repairing and laying asphalt between and outside the tracks at the intersection of the Boulevard, Tenth-ave. and Eleventh-st., with the public

without inviting bids, and for which work the	
Barber Asphalt Company rendered a bill dated	
June 20, 1895, as follows:	
480 10 square yards of asphalt surface at \$2.....	\$960 20
310 10 square yards of asphalt and concrete at.....	1,292 75
\$5 80	
Total .....	\$2,252 95

Nothing further was done in this matter by the Commissioner of Public Works till 1897, when about November 9 he requested his chief clerk to cause to be made out a requisition for this work. The chief clerk, Henry Dimes, ordered the clerk to the Water Purveyor, John McManus, to make out the requisitions, which were approved by the Board of Public Works.

June 1, 190 square yards, \$2.....	\$60.00
June 1, 341 square yards, \$3.....	1,203.50
Total.....	\$2,263.50

When these requisitions were handed Commissioner Collis to sign he returned them through his chief clerk, Mr. Plimse, who in turn informed Mr. McManus that the Commissioner would not sign the one for over \$1,000, and ordered him to change it by splitting it into two requisitions.

When the chief clerk was asked if the dates should be the same in the requisitions into which the \$1,000 was split, Mr. Plimse instructed him to date one June 9 and the other June 1, which resulted in Mr. McManus making out the following requisitions:

These were signed by Edward P. North as Water Purveyor, although he had long ceased to be such.

There was again unsatisfactory to Commissioner Collis, and he instructed Charles W. Bar-

June 1.	450 square yards at \$2 .....	\$900.00
June 1.	200 square yards at \$3 80 .....	760.00
June 9.	141 square yards at \$3 80 .....	535.80
Total .....		\$2,225.80
June 1.	4437 square yards at \$3 80 .....	\$168.60
June 1.	205.82 square yards at \$3 80 .....	1,124.11
June 1.	200 square yards at \$3 80 .....	760.00
June 6.	66 square yards at \$3 80 .....	250.80
Total .....		\$2,412.87

Each of these last four requisitions are, as will be noticed, at the rate of \$3 80, although the

Again, it will be noticed that these four requisitions, exclusive of the one for \$800 already signed by Commissioner Collis, amount to \$2,417.52, and, including the \$800 already signed, the total is \$3,217.52, exceeding the company's bill by \$1,121.29.

The last-mentioned four requisitions, instead of being signed by Edward F. North as Water Purveyor, were signed by Charles W. Barney, then City Engineer, as they were done, were signed on December 30, the last day but one of the Strong administration, by Charles W. Barney as Water Purveyor, who did not hold that position in 1890, the time in question.

The various sets of requisitions were copied

In the copypress book of the Department in December, 1897, at the time they were made, while all of these requisitions were dated as of June, 1897, we therefore present that these facts disclose that it was apparent to Commissioner Collis from June 29, 1896, the date of the asphalt company's bill, that he had transgressed the law in making a contract for over \$1,000 without previous advertising and receipt of bids, and he accepted of November, 1897, he no doubt concluded that his incumbency in office would soon terminate, and he then either invited or compelled the aid and assistance of his subordinates—Edward P. North, consulting engineer, James Barney, Water surveyor, and John J. Dimsie, chief clerk—into which those who aid the auditor in bills, that he might speedily and before the coming end of the year bring about the audit and payment of this illegal and improper bill.

This course, we are advised, was within the

consideration of the President and the Secretary of the  
Penal Code. Respectfully,  
JOHN C. HERTLE,  
EDWARD OWEN,  
Commissioners of Accounts.

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AMBASSADORSHIP TO ENGLAND.

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NO APPOINTMENT WILL BE ANNOUNCED UNTIL  
THE PRESIDENT RETURNS FROM THE WEST.

Washington, Oct. 4.—The President will not announce the selection of a successor to Mr. Hay as Ambassador to England before his return from his trip to Europe. Mr. White, the Secretary of the

American Legation in London, is giving great satisfaction in the discharge of his duties as *Chargé d'Affaires*, so the President is taking his own time in making a selection for this important post.

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**FUERST BISMARCK AGROUND IN THE ELBE**

Hamburg, Oct. 6.—The Hamburg-American Line steamer *Fürst Bismarck*, which arrived here September 30, from New-York, went aground in the River Elbe. The steamer was later in the day floated without assistance, and proceeded on her voyage to New-York.